

Myths about domestic violence:

Myth: Women who are battered are uneducated, unemployed, and from the lower economic level of society.

Fact: *Battering occurs in all levels of society, among working and unemployed, the educated and the uneducated.*

Myth: A batterer will stop his violent behavior if he stops drinking and/or using drugs.

Fact: *Alcohol or drug abuse does not cause battering. Even if the batterer stops abusing substances, it does not mean they will stop acting out violent behavior.*

Myth: A woman will nag and run her mouth to the point she sometimes needs to be hit.

Fact: *95% of domestic violence victims are women. No one can force another to hit through words. Everyone, including a batterer, is responsible for the choices they make.*

Myth: If a woman really loves her child(ren) she will leave the abuser.

Fact: *Women may really love their children but may stay out of fear, financial dependence, and/or the hope that things will change. They may not want their children to grow up without fathers.*

Myth: Verbal, mental, sexual or emotional abuse isn't as bad as physical violence, nor as damaging.

Fact: *Verbal, mental, sexual or emotional abuse undermines one's self esteem. Physical battering along with verbal, mental, sexual or emotional abuse may destroy a victim's feeling of personal power, creating feelings of confusion and an inability to make decisions.*

What are my legal rights?

According to North Carolina law, domestic violence may involve hitting, kicking, strangulation, unwanted touching, and/or threats of physical harm by a spouse, intimate partner, or member of your household.

Criminal: Law enforcement can arrest a batterer or victims can go to their county's magistrate and ask for a warrant for the batterer's arrest.

Civil: Victims can also seek a Domestic Violence Protective Order that may require that the batterer not assault, threaten, harass, follow, or interfere with victims or members of their family or household. Sometimes, a court might also award temporary child custody and/or possession of a car or residence to help prevent further acts of domestic violence.



*"The soul that is within me
no man can degrade"*

-Frederick Douglas

Greenville Police Department Victim Services

- Assistance with a Domestic Violence Protective Order (if eligible)
- Help understanding the "ins" and "outs" of the criminal process
- Referral Services to community agencies
- Emotional support throughout the process
- Assistance in seeking Victim Compensation (if eligible)
- Notification of Arrest

Greenville Police Department can offer victims a referral to *The Family Violence Program, Inc. of Pitt County* for the following services:

- New Directions-offers safe housing for women and children
- Adult Counseling
- Support Groups
- Children's Counseling
- Displaced Homemakers Program
- Court Services
- The Family Center-child access center
- Abuse in Later Life
- Parenting Classes
- Co-Parenting Classes
- Hispanic Outreach
- 911 Phones

To contact *The Family Violence Program, Inc. of Pitt County* call:

252-758-4400

Located at
823 South Evans Street